

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 05019 011916Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 011616Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 863
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5019

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFR, OAU, SP
SUBJECT: OAU ACTION ON THE CANARIES LIBERATION FRONT
REF: LIBREVILLE 1628; MADRID 4532 (NOTAL); MONROVIA 4175 (NOTAL)

1. THE MADRID PRESS HAS REACTED UNANIMOUSLY WITH INCREDULITY TO REPORTS OUT OF LIBREVILLE THAT OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE RECOMMENDED DISPATCHING AND "INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE" TO THE CANARIES TO STUDY THE EXTENT OF INDEPENDENCE SENTIMENT AND DEGREE OF SUPPORT ENJOYED BY THE ALGIERS-BASED, CUBILLO-LED "CANARIES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT" (MPAIAC). TERMING ANY SUCH VISIT FLAGRANT INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL SPANISH AFFAIRS, ALL MADRID DAILIES HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE INITIATIVE IS PARTICULARLY MALODROUS COMING AS IT DOES AFTER FREE ELEC-
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05019 011916Z

TIONS HAVE JUST DEMONSTRATED THE PAUCITY OF INDEPENDENCE SENTIMENT IN THE ISLANDS. MOREOVER, THEY CONTINUE, THE

LINKAGE OF THIS EFFORT WITH THE DISCREDITED CUBILLO, WHO HAS ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE VIOLENT LUNATIC FRINGE IN SPAIN, MAKES IT ALL THE MORE RIDICULOUS.

2. THE PRESS HERE HAS PORTRAYED (ACCURATELY, WE BELIEVE) ALL MAJOR SPANISH POLITICAL GROUPS AS OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH VISIT AND THE POPULATION OF THE CANARIES AS ALMOST UNIFORMLY HOSTILE TO IT. ONE COMMENTATOR SEES THE HAND OF THE SOVIET UNION INVOLVED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATION AND FURTHER INTERPRETS IT AS AN ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT OAU MEMBERS FROM THEIR OWN INTRAMURAL PROBLEMS. HE CONCLUDES THAT THE OAU WOULD HARDLY WELCOME WITH OPEN ARMS THE SENDING OF A SPANISH DELEGATION TO LOOK INTO THE EXTENT OF INDEPENDENCE SENTIMENT IN SOUTHEASTERN ANGOLA.

3. THE GOS HAS MADE NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE OAU INITIATIVE, REPORTEDLY WAITING TO SEE WHETHER OAU CHIEFS OF STATE APPROVE THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATION. THE PRESS, HOWEVER, CITING WELL-PLACED SOURCES, AFFIRMS THAT THE GOS'S REACTION WILL BE A QUICK, TOUGH AND UNEQUIVOCAL "NO." THEY ALSO CONSIDER IT CERTAIN THAT THIS WOULD FURTHER STRAIN RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND ALGERIA, SINCE ALGIERS IS UNANIMOUSLY VIEWED AS THE INSTIGATOR OF THIS MANEUVER.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO OUR CONVEYING TO THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY THE RESULTS OF OUR INQUIRY TO MONROVIA, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (DURAN) AGAIN DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH EMBOFF LAST WEEK. HE MADE CLEAR AT THAT TIME THAT SPAIN WOULD REJECT ANY EFFORT TO SEND AN OBSERVER MISSION, LAMENTING THE APPARENT IGNORANCE WITHIN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 05019 011916Z

OAU CIRCLES REGARDING THE ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE CANARIES POPULATION (SPANISH BOTH IN LANGUAGE AND ETHNIC STRUCTURE), AND SAID SPAIN WOULD ATTEMPT TO POINT OUT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO WERE WILLING TO LISTEN THAT NEARLY 80 PERCENT OF THE CANARIES POPULATION (AT ABOUT THE NATIONAL LEVEL) HAD VOTED IN SPAIN'S FIRST FREE ELECTIONS, ALL FR CANDIDATES COMMITTED TO THE CANARIES BEING PART OF SPAIN. HE REPEATED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS QUITE APPRECIATIVE OF OUR INQUIRY ON THEIR BEHALF IN MONROVIA AND EMBOFF THEN REMINDED HIM THAT IN A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR SITUATION, THAT OF PUERTO RICO, THE SPANISH UN DELEGATION HAD NOT ALWAYS BEEN AS COOPERATIVE WITH US. DURAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT WE SHOULD COME TO HIM IF PUERTO RICO BECOMES ACTIVE AT THE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. TODAY THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SOLANO, CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE SPANISH WOULD REJECT ANY FACT-FINDING MISSION BUT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT BY ONE OR TWO PEOPLE FROM OAU COUNTRIES, SO LONG AS THEY DID NOT COME AS AN OFFICIAL OAU COMMISSION TO THE CANARIES. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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